



Jesus made three predictions thus far in Mark 14:

1. Judas would betray Him (14:18)
2. The disciples would ALL fall away (14:27)
3. Peter will deny Jesus three times (14:30)

Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, this was the sign for the guards to know which one was Jesus.

One of the disciples, which we know from John's gospel to be Peter (John 18:10) draws a sword and cuts off an ear. Jesus heals the ear (Luke 22:51) and responds by saying "Shall I not drink the cup the Father given me? (John 18:11)

We don't know who the young man who flees naked is (V51-52). Some believe it is Mark himself, though that is only speculation. Mark lived in Jerusalem and it's possible that it is in Mark mother's home that they held Passover (see Acts 12:12).

**The details of Jesus' arrest happen so that the scriptures would be fulfilled.**

### **Why and How Jesus Satisfies:**

**1. Jesus if fully God and fully man:** There was no other way for a sacrifice to SATISFY God's wrath and judgement against sin. (Rom. 3:25, 1 John 2:2, 4:10)

*Hebrews 2:17-18 "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."*

**2. Jesus Understand Us:** Hebrews tells us that because Jesus suffered as we do, He understands our condition, we can stand before God's throne in prayer with confidence that we will receive mercy and grace in our time of need.

*Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

He understand the deep distress and the pain that won't go away!

### **Why do we run to God in times of distress?**

We can have confidence that Jesus understands, intercedes and mediates God's grace and mercy in our time of need because He suffered as we do!

## **Betrayal, Prayer and the Humanity of Jesus**

March 8, 2026

Mark 14:26-52

### **Introduction**

Jesus satisfies even in moments of great distress and turmoil!

Have you found this to be true? If so, how?

### **1. The Disciples Will All Fall Away (v26-31)**

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

#### **Mark 14:26-31**

Singing hymns was a part of the Passover, and it's likely that they sang Psalms 113-118, with 116-118 likely being sung on the way to the Mount of Olives.

Consider the first (4) verses of Psalm 116: "*I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: O'Lord, I pray deliver my soul*".

**Tradition isn't bad in and of itself.** When the heart of the tradition become disconnected from the heart of those practicing it, then it becomes empty and hollow. Tradition strengthened Jesus here on the way to the Mount of Olives.

Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered (Zechariah 13:7)

Jesus predicts the disciples will fall away and Peter will deny him. But then announces RESTORATION - After I am raised, I will meet you in Galilee!

In all of this, the prophecies of Zechariah, and Jesus' statements of things happening

“as it is written” testify to the sovereign work of God in orchestrating the events of Jesus’ last days. (See Zech. 9:9-11, 12:10-13:1, 14:4)

➡ **In the uncertainty of our days, we can trust God’s purposes will be worked out even when things seem to be out of control.**

## 2. Jesus Agonizes in Prayer (v32-42)

And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33**And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. **34**And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.”<sup>d</sup> **35**And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36**And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” **37**And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? **38**Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **39**And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40**And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. **41**And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42**Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

**Mark 14:32-42**

Gethsemane is a place Jesus and the disciples have routinely visited (See John 18:2, Luke 22:39). Judas knew the place.

Gethsemane means “oil press” and likely included an olive grove and a press for extracting oil. Olive oil was used in anointing, symbolizing consecration to the Lord.

Jesus is NOT afraid of physical death so much as **drinking the CUP of God’s wrath** against sin. (See Mark 10:38, Jeremiah 25:15, Psalm 75:8, Rev. 14:10). **He absorbs the the full weight** of the wrath of God against sin. Jesus propitiates God’s wrath, by bearing the penalty for our sin. **This causes deep distress and agony.**

Jesus shows us that **PRAYER IS HONEST.**

➡ **Jesus is pressed and out of Him come honest cries and humble surrender. “Not my will but yours be done” (v36)**

Jesus wants His disciples to keep watch in prayer with Him, and three times He comes and finds them sleeping. In this moment of great distress, **Jesus continues to teach and offer mercy.**

His response to the sleeping disciples: “*Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The Spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.*” **(Illustration)**

➡ **The needs of the physical body, though part of God’s design, can sometimes overwhelm us, in such a way that causes us to miss what God would have for us in any given moment.**

One part of the fruit of the Spirit is *self control*. Gal. 5:22, 1 Tim. 1:7, Rom. 8:1-11)

### Prayer:

We can begin to take an active role in partnering with the Spirit by praying that we are strengthened to overcome the needs and desires of the flesh that impact our obedience to God in moments of testing and trials.

*Father, we understand that we are fragile and that we have certain needs that are present in our lives because of your design. These needs, in and of themselves, are not bad, but we recognize that they can cause us to miss something you are calling us into in any given moment. We pray that you would strengthen us by your Spirit, to resist the temptation to give into the needs of our bodies when we sense that you are leading us toward a step of obedience.*

## 3. Jesus Arrested and Alone (v43-53)

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. **44**Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” **45**And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. **46**And they laid hands on him and seized him. **47**But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant<sup>e</sup> of the high priest and cut off his ear. **48**And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? **49**Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” **50**And they all left him and fled. **51**And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, **52**but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.